

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

JOHN PEPPER, et al.

§ Group No.: 3731

Serial No.: 09/107,644

FAX RECEIVED

Filed: June 30, 1998

Examiner: Shai

MAR 03 1999

For: MINIMALLY INVASIVE
INTRAMEDULLARY NAIL
INSERTION INSTRUMENTS
AND METHOD

§ DOCKET NO.: P01577US0

Group 3700

*Carter
PMS/SP/99*PRELIMINARY AMENDMENTCommissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment is being submitted in order to more clearly define the subject matter of the claims. Prior to examination, please amend the claims as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. A minimally invasive reaming assembly for creating an entry portal into the canal of a bone and providing a working channel in which to ream the canal of a bone, the assembly comprising:

2. a) an elongated cylindrically-shaped hollow sleeve having a proximal and a distal end, the distal end having a plurality of cutting blades;

3. b) a housing adjacent to the proximal end of the sleeve, the housing having a top portion, a bottom portion and a through bore, the top portion including [releaseable engagement means for engagement with] a first connecting mechanism configured to releaseably engage an inner reamer;

4. c) an inner reamer having an elongated body and proximal and distal ends,